

JOURNAL

OF THE

SECOND ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

GULF MISSION CONFERENCE

OF THE

METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH,

HELD AT

CROWLEY, LOUISIANA,

Feb. 3-7, 1898.

Vol. II, No. 2.

JENNINGS, LA.,
Times Printing House,
1898.

Officers of the Conference.

PRESIDENT,

BISHOP W. X. NINDE, D. D., LL. D. -

(Address, Detroit, Mich.)

SECRETARY,

CHAS. K. WOODSON,

(Jennings, Calcasieu Parish, La.)

ASSISTANT SECRETARY,

J. G. CAMPBELL,

(Lake Charles, La.)

STATISTICAL SECRETARY,

P. J. ROBIDOUX,

(Crowley, La.)

TREASURER,

IRA N. PARDEE,

(Jennings, La.)

Gulf Mission Conference Appoint- ments, 1898.

CYRUS A. KING, Superintendent,
[Postoffice, Lake Charles, La.]

LAKE CHARLES DISTRICT,
Cyrus A. King, Presiding Elder.

Baldwin,
Beaumont and Taylor's Bayou,
Crowley,
Ebenezer,
French Mission,
Gueydan and Midland, *R*
Jennings,
Lake Charles,
Lakeview,

La Porte,
Pine Woods, *DW*
Port Arthur,

Raymond and Oberlin, *Ashmore*
Welsh and Fenton,
Woodville, *man*

French Work (Bible Reader),

I. N. Pardee, Temperance Agent, Member of Jennings Quar-
terly Conference.

John H. Burger, Professor in Jennings Seminary, Aurora,
Ills., Member of Welsh Quarterly Conference.

Chas. K. Woodson, President The Southern University and
President Baldwin Academy.

Chas. K. Woodson

Lastie Hoffpauir *ckw*

Supplied by C. W. Campbell *Hoff*

P. C. Chaney

P. J. Robidoux

Thos. Wilson

L. W. Elkins

J. G. Campbell

E. L. Wells

Supplied by E. L. Ashmore

A. C. Williamson

C. P. W. Wimberly *ckw*

Supplied by J. F. Ross

Supplied by Asbury Wilkinson

J. L. Wyche

O. Derouen

Gulf Mission Conference Appointments, Continued.

MARSHALL (TEXAS) DISTRICT,

J. W. Lively, Presiding Elder. —

Atlanta,
Hughes Springs,
Marshall,
Mahon,
Provencal,
Red River,
Shelbyville,

P. H. Sanders
Julian Woodson
J. W. Lively
To be supplied
To be supplied
To be supplied
C. E. Mock

Gulf Mission Conference Roll.

NAME.	P. O. ADDRESS.
Burger, John H.,	Aurora, Ill.
Campbell, J. G.,	Lake Charles, La.
Chaney, P. C.,	Crowley, La.
Hoffpauir, Lastie,	Beaumont, Tex.
King, Cyrus A.,	Lake Charles, La.
Lively, J. W.,	Marshall, Tex.
Mock, Chas. E.,	Shelbyville, Tex.
Pardee, Ira N.,	Jennings, La.
Robidoux, P. J.,	Crowley, La.
Sanders, Patrick H.,	Atlanta, Tex.
Wilson, Thos.,	Gueydan, La.
Wimberly, Chas. P. W.,	Port Arthur, Tex.
Woodson, Chas. K.,	Jennings, La.
Woodson, Julian,	Hughes Springs, Tex.
Wyche, John L.,	Woodville, Tex.

Disciplinary Questions.

GULF MISSION CONFERENCE OF THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

Held in Crowley, La., February 3-7, 1898, Bishop W. X. Ninde presiding; Chas. K. Woodson, Secretary, postoffice address, Jennings, Calcasieu Parish, La.

Question 1.—Who have been received by transfer and from what conference?

Ans. Chas. P. W. Wimberly, Louisiana Conference.

Question 2.—Who have been readmitted?

Ans. Julian Woodson (Located, East Texas Conference, M. E. Church, South, 1896.) John L. Wyche, [Located, East Texas Conference, M. E. Church, South, 1896.] Thos. Wilson, [Located 1882, M. E. Church] and J. G. Campbell on his certificate of location from the M. E. Church.

Question 4.—Who have been received on trial?

a. In studies of First Year. Patrick H. Sanders, Chas. E. Mock, Lastie Hoffpauir.

Question 5.—Who have been continued on trial?

a. In studies of First Year. John H. Burger.

Question 6.—Who have been discontinued? Walter M. Zimmerman, deceased.

Question 11.—What others have been elected and ordained Deacons? Charles E. Mock and Patrick H. Sanders.

Question 21.—What other personal notations should be made?

- a. Those whose orders have been recognized without admission to the Annual Conference. Richard Walker, L. W. Holt, Christopher C. Sullivan, Newton L. Fayers, Howard L. Hughes.

Question 24.—Who are the Triers of Appeals?

Ira N. Pardee, Chas. K. Woodson, C. A. King, J. G. Campbell, P. J. Robidoux, P. C. Chaney.

Question 25.—What is the statistical report for this year?
(See Statistical Tables.)

Question 29.—Where are the Preachers stationed?
(See List of Appointments.)

Question 30.—Where shall the next Conference be held?
Marshall, Texas.

JOURNAL.

THURSDAY. FIRST DAY.

CROWLEY, LA., FEB. 3, 1898.

Second Annual Session.—The Gulf Mission Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church convened in its Second Annual Session at Crowley, Louisiana, Thursday, February 3d, 1898, at 9 o'clock a. m., Bishop W. X. Ninde, D. D., LL. D., presiding.

Opening Services.—Bishop Ninde opened the Conference by reading as a lesson the third chapter of Ephesians, and announced the hymn, "My Faith Looks up to Thee," which was sung in a spirited manner. The Bishop then led in a prayer of consecration, at the close of which the Conference joined in repeating the Lord's Prayer, followed by the singing of "A Charge to Keep I Have." The Bishop called upon Cyrus A. King and Ira N. Pardee to continue our supplications. "Nearer, My God, to Thee" was sung and the Bishop requested P. C. Chaney and Chas. K. Woodson to lead the Conference in a nearer approach to the Throne of all Grace, after which "Blessed Assurance, Jesus is Mine," was sung with animation. Bishop Ninde then addressed the Conference, speaking in a blessed way, words of great comfort and encouragement in and for our work.

Roll Call.—The Secretary of the last Session, Chas. K. Woodson, called the roll of the Conference and the following brethren being present responded to their names: P. C. Chaney, Cyrus A. King, Ira N. Pardee and Chas. K. Woodson.

Election of Officers.—On motion of Ira N. Pardee, Chas. K. Woodson was elected Secretary. On motion the Secretary was granted the privilege of nominating his assistants. P. J. Robidoux was nominated and elected Assistant Statistical Secretary, and Ira N. Pardee was elected Conference Treasurer.

Standing Committees.—On motion of P. C. Chaney the Superintendent was requested to nominate the Standing Committees. The Superintendent nominated and the following Standing Committees were approved:

Sabbath Observance.—P. A. Drown, J. F. Ross, L. Hoffpauir.

Temperance.—Ira N. Pardee, P. J. Robidoux, E. L. Wells.

Sunday Schools and Tracts.—J. W. Lively, P. C. Chaney, P. H. Sanders.

Education.—Chas. K. Woodson, Ira N. Pardee, J. Woodson, C. A. King, J. W. Lively.

Auditing.—J. F. Ross.

Periodicals.—P. C. Chaney.

Bible Cause.—C. W. Campbell, A. Hoffpauir, A. C. Williamson.

Church Extension.—Ira N. Pardee, E. L. Wells, J. F. Ross.

State of the Church.—Asbury Wilkinson.

Epworth League.—Ira N. Pardee, J. G. Campbell.

Publishing Minutes.—The Secretary.

Public Worship.—The Pastor and the Superintendent.

To fix the Time.—On motion of the Superintendent the time of the regular Session was fixed at 9 a. m., the first half hour to

be spent in devotional exercises, and 12 m. as the hour of adjournment.

Conference Relations.—On motion of C. A. King, a committee of three was ordered on Conference relations. Ira N. Pardee, J. W. Lively and P. J. Robidoux were constituted such a committee.

Introductions.—The following persons were introduced by the Bishop to the Conference: E. W. Osburn, Member of the Louisiana Conference and pastor of St. Charles Street Church, New Orleans, La., C. W. Campbell, of the Missouri Conference, and E. L. Wells, of the Nebraska Conference.

The Thirteenth Question.—Was the character of each Preacher examined?

The thirteenth question was taken up and the Superintendent, Cyrus A. King, was called, his character passed, and he read his report. (See Report.)

On motion of P. C. Chaney, the Superintendent was requested to furnish his report for publication in the Conference Journal.

Postponement of the Sacrament.—On motion of C. A. King, the sacramental service was postponed until Friday morning.

Postmaster.—On motion of Chas. K. Woodson, J. F. Ross was elected the Conference postmaster.

Papers and Letters.—Certain papers and letters in the hands of the Bishop were referred by consent to the proper Committees.

On motion, E. L. Wells was appointed to solicit subscriptions for the "Conference Examiner," a periodical edited by C. M. Heard, D. D.

Chartered Fund.—On motion the draft on the chartered fund for \$50.00 was referred to the Conference Stewards.

On motion of C. A. King, Ira N. Pardee, Chas. K. Woodson and J. W. Lively were appointed the Conference Stewards.

Bishop's Claim.—On motion the Superintendent was requested to apportion the Bishop's claim to the various charges.

Benevolent Collections.—On motion of E. L. Wells, the brethren were requested, in reporting their benevolent collections, to state if they had taken all the collections or not, and to report all the collections taken.

Adjournment.—After the announcements and benediction by Bishop Ninde, the Conference adjourned.

FRIDAY, SECOND DAY.

CROWLEY, LA., FEB. 4, 1898.

Religious Exercises.—The religious exercises were conducted by J. W. Lively, during which the Bishop proceeded with the administration of the Lord's Supper, assisted by Cyrus A. King and Asbury Wilkinson.

Minutes Read and Approved.—The minutes of the first day's Session was read, corrected and approved.

Re-admitted.—On motion, J. G. Campbell was re-admitted on his certificate of location.

Election of Assistant Secretary.—On motion of Chas. K. Woodson, J. G. Campbell was elected Assistant Secretary.

Committee on Missions.—On motion of the Superintendent, the following were made a committee on Missions: Ira N. Pardee, J. G. Campbell, J. W. Lively, P. J. Robidoux. On the request of the Bishop, the name of Cyrus A. King was added to the committee.

Committee on Memoirs.—On motion of the Superintendent, J. W. Lively, Asbury Wilkinson and Thos. Wilson were appointed a committee on Memoirs.

The Thirteenth Question Resumed.—The thirteenth question was resumed and the following brethren were called, their character passed, and they reported their work. Each brother as he was called made extended remarks on the condition of his charge: Ira N. Pardee, Chas. K. Woodson, J. W. Lively, Abel Hoffpauir, P. C. Chaney, P. J. Robidoux, A. Wilkinson, J. G. Campbell, A. C. Williamson, Julian Woodson.

Time Extended.—On motion of the Superintendent the time was extended.

The case of Julian Woodson was referred to the Committee on Conference Relations for their action.

After the announcements and the singing of the Doxology, the benediction was pronounced by Dr. J. W. Hamilton, Corresponding Secretary of the Freedmens' Aid and Southern Education Society, and the Conference adjourned.

SATURDAY, THIRD DAY,

CROWLEY, LA., FEB. 5, 1898.

Religious Exercises.—The Session of the third day was opened at 9 o'clock with religious exercises conducted by E. W. Osburn, Pastor of St. Charles Street, New Orleans.

Minutes Read.—The minutes of yesterday's Session were read and approved.

Thirteenth Question Resumed.—Thos. Wilson and J. F. Ross reported their work and Sister Ada Horn reported for the Shelbyville charge.

Letter.—A letter addressed to Bishop Ninde from Bishop Hartzell, Africa, was read by the Bishop to the Conference to the great edification of all. The letter was responded to by many an "Amen!" and "God bless Bishop Hartzell in his noble work!"

Second Question.—The second question, Who have been re-admitted? was taken up and the cases of the following brethren were presented and acted upon: Julian Woodson, located 1896, East Texas Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, John L. Wyche, located 1896, East Texas Conference, Methodist Episcopal Church, South; Thos. Wilson, located 1882, Methodist Episcopal Church. These brethren on recommendation were admitted by a unanimous vote of the Conference.

Introductions.—The following persons were introduced by the Bishop to the Conference: P. R. Knickerbocker, Pastor Methodist Episcopal Church, South, (city); E. T. Moberly, Pastor Baptist Church, (city); L. Green, (colored), Louisiana Conference, Pastor Methodist Episcopal Church, (city).

Fourth Question.—The fourth question, Who have been received on Trial? was taken up. The following brethren were admitted on trial: Patrick H. Sanders, Chas. E. Mock, Lastie Hoffpauir, A. C. Williamson, the Conference Board of Examiners having reported favorably in each case as their names were called.

Fifth Question.—The fifth question, Who have been continued on Trial? was called and the name of John H. Burger was announced as continued on trial.

Sixth Question.—The sixth question was taken up, Who have been discontinued? The name of Walter M. Zimmerman was called and he was reported as having died during the year in great peace.

Twenty-First Question.—The twenty-first question was called, What other personal notations should be made? The names of the following persons were called and their orders recognized:

Richard Walker from the Methodist Episcopal Church, South,

Christopher C. Sullivan from the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, Howard L. Hughes from the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, L. W. Holt from the Congregational Methodist, Newton L. Fayes from the Congregational Methodist.

Communication.—A communication addressed to the Hon. James A. Gary, Postmaster General, Washington, D. C., respecting the stopping the transmission of mails and the closing of all postoffices on Sunday, was read and adopted by a rising vote. (See communication.)

Reports of Committees.—The committee on Periodicals reported and the report was adopted. (See report.)

Committee on Sunday Schools and Tracts reported and their report was adopted. (See report.)

Committee on publishing minutes reported and report adopted.

Adjournment.—On motion of the Superintendent, it was agreed to that when we adjourn that we adjourn to meet in an afternoon session at 2:30 o'clock.

Orders of the Day.—On motion of Cyrus A. King, the calling of the roll for subscriptions to the minute fund was made a special order of the day for the afternoon session.

On motion of the Superintendent, it was requested that whatever money that had been raised by any of the brethren for Sister Walter Zimmerman, be paid over to Sister Ada Horn.

Triers of Appeals.—The following persons were announced by the Superintendent as Triers of Appeals: Ira. N. Pardee, Chas. K. Woodson, J. W. Lively, Cyrus A. King, J. G. Campbell, P. J. Robidoux, P. C. Chaney.

Conference Board of Church Extension.—The following brethren were appointed to serve as the Conference Board of Church Extension for the ensuing year:

Ira N. Pardee, President.

J. G. Campbell, Vice-President.

W. M. Taylor, Secretary.

Chas. K. Woodson, Treasurer.

S. A. Knapp, W. E. Coffin, D. R. Kelsey and the Presiding Elders.

Missionary Sermon.—The Bishop appointed J. G. Campbell to preach the Conference Missionary sermon at the seat of the next Annual Session.

A communication from Dr. McLauren regarding the American Bible Society was referred to the committee on Bible Cause.

Resolution presented by P. C. Chaney looking toward the changing of the time of holding our Conference from the spring Conferences to the fall Conferences, and the placing our Conference in the list of Texas Conference Visitations, was referred to a special committee of three, consisting of Chas. K. Woodson, J. W. Lively and C. A. King, for consideration.

On motion of P. C. Chaney, E. L. Wells was requested to prepare suitable resolutions with respect to the Central Christian Advocate, published at St. Louis, Mo.

Introductions.—The Bishop called the venerable Dr. Frazier, a minister of the Presbyterian Church, to come forward and introduced him to the Conference as his host and friend.

On request of the Secretary the Conference by a rising vote manifested their respect and cordial regards to Dr. Frazier, who by his Godly life in Christ Jesus has endeared himself to all denominations and especially to the Methodist Episcopal Church.

Adjournment.—After the usual announcements and the benediction by Dr. Frazier, the Conference adjourned.

Afternoon Session.

CROWLEY, LA., FEB. 5, 1898.

The afternoon session was opened by singing, "O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing my Great Redeemer's Praise," and prayer offered by E. L. Wells.

Minutes.—The minutes of the morning session were read and approved.

Transfer.—The Bishop announced the transfer of Chas. P. W. Wimberly from the Louisiana Conference, and on motion of the Superintendent, his case referred to the committee on Conference Relations, with an addition of Chas. K. Woodson and Julian Woodson to the committee.

Order of the Day.—The special order of the day was taken up and the roll of members and supplies was called by the Secretary for subscriptions to the minute fund as follows: P. C. Chaney, \$2.50; C. A. King, \$5.00; J. W. Lively, \$5.00; Ira N. Pardee, \$5.00; P. J. Robidoux \$2.50; Chas. K. Woodson, \$5.00; Julian Woodson, \$1.00; Thos. Wilson, \$5.00; John L. Wyche, \$2.00; L. Hoffpauir, \$1.00; Chas. E. Mock, \$2.00; P. H. Sanders, \$1.00; J. G. Campbell, \$5.00; E. L. Wells, \$2.00; C. W. Campbell, \$5.00; J. F. Ross, \$2.00; Abel Hoffpauir, \$1.00; A. C. Williamson, \$1.00.

The following friends and visitors generously responded to the invitation given to aid in this work: W. M. Taylor, \$1.00; F. R. Jaenke, \$2.00; Henry Esselstyn, 50c; J. D. McCorkle, \$1.00; A. Garott, 50c; Sister Nutt, 25c; Earl Chaney, 25c.

To Fix the Place.—The place of the meeting of the next Session of the Conference was fixed at Marshall, Texas.

Reports.—The committee on Sabbath Observance reported and the report was adopted. (See report.)

The committee on Bible Cause reported and the report was adopted. (See report.)

The Eleventh Question.—The eleventh question was taken up and Patrick H. Sanders and Chas. E. Mock were elected to Deacon's orders.

Reports.—The Conference Stewards made their report and the report was adopted. (See report.)

The committee on Periodicals reported and the report was adopted. (See report.)

Special Order.—The hearing of the report of the committee on Education was made the special order for Monday after the reading of the minutes.

Adjournment.—After the announcements were read, the singing of the Doxology and the benediction by Julian Woodson, the Conference adjourned.

MONDAY, FOURTH DAY,

CROWLEY, LA., FEB. 7, 1898.

Religious Exercises.—The fourth Session of the Conference was opened Monday at 9:00 o'clock with religious exercises conducted by E. L. Wells.

Bishop Ninde, being absent on account of the pressure of business, appointed Cyrus A. King to preside in his absence.

Minutes.—The minutes of Saturday afternoon's session were read and approved.

Order of the Day.—On motion of Ira N. Pardee, the order of the day was postponed until the arrival of Bishop Ninde.

Reports.—The Auditing Committee reported and the report was adopted. (See report.)

The committee on Conference Relations reported favorably in the case of Chas. P. W. Wimberly.

Resolution.—A resolution offered by Ira N. Pardee in reference to the time for Conference examinations of undergraduates was approved. (See resolution.)

The Bishop entered the Conference room at this time and took the chair.

Changing Time of the Meeting of Conference.—On motion of J. W. Lively, C. A. King was appointed to present the matter of changing the time of the annual meeting of the Conference to the Bishops for their action.

Reports.—The Conference Treasurer reported and the report was adopted, with the understanding that the Treasurer arrange with the Statistical Secretary and adjust the difference in their several reports. (See report.)

The Statistical Secretary made his report and the report was adopted, with the same understanding as with the Treasurer. (See report.)

The committee on Church Extension reported and the report was adopted. (See report.)

The committee on the Epworth League reported and the report was adopted, with this addition, that the Executive Committee of the Conference League be requested to nominate a full Conference Cabinet for the complete organization of the Conference League, and present the same at the Convention which is to meet in May next.

The committee on Temperance reported and the report was adopted. (See report.)

Church Locations.—The Superintendent, C. A. King, placed in nomination the District Boards of Church Location. Lake Charles District, the Presiding Elder, the Pastors of Lake Charles and Crowley and Ira N. Pardee. Marshall District, Presiding Elder, Pastors of Atlanta and Hughes Springs.

Reports.—The committee on Education reported and the report was adopted. (See report.)

The committee on Missions reported and the report was adopted. (See report.)

On motion of E. L. Wells, it was requested that our Pastors shall frequently write up their work for the Central Christian Advocate, for our mutual benefit.

Resolutions.—Resolutions of thanks were extended to W. W. Duson for his generous and courteous treatment of the Conference. (See resolution.)

Resolutions of respect were expressed to the good people of Crowley for their kindly hospitality, and to Bishop W. X. Ninde for his Christian and gentlemanly conduct in presiding over this Conference, and to Chas. K. Woodson, the Secretary, in his efforts to serve the Conference. (See resolutions.)

Reading of the Appointments.—After the reading and approval of the minutes and the singing of "I Love to Tell the Story," and a few words of counsel and love by the Bishop, the appointments were read, and the Conference adjourned with the benediction by Bishop Ninde.

Attest:

CHAS. K. WOODSON,
Secretary.

W. X. NINDE,
President.

REPORTS.

Educational Report.

We are rejoiced that in every department of our Educational work there is increased activity, interest and consecration.

GARRETT BIBLICAL INSTITUTE.

Garrett Biblical Institute is granting facilities and opportunities for a Theological Education second to none within the bounds of Methodism. We commend this institution to all who have not completed a thorough Biblical course of study.

THE BOARD OF EDUCATION,

We recommend and urge every Pastor to see that each Sunday School under his charge observe the Second Sunday in June as Children's Day, and that he take a collection to be devoted to the Sunday School Children's Fund, and report the same, as the Discipline directs, to his congregation. We call attention to the special programme prepared by Dr. C. H. Payne, Corresponding Secretary of the Board of Education, 150 Fifth Avenue, New York, and recommend its use on Children's Day.

THE FREEDMEN'S AID AND SOUTHERN EDUCATION SOCIETY.

The Freedmen's Aid and Southern Education Society in its work in the South has been greatly blessed of God, and the

crushing load so bravely borne by our church one year ago, is dissolving before the business management of its officers, and appropriations, impossible then, are now being made, closed schools are re-opening, new schools are being built and an early era of prosperity appears. We urge a widespread circulation of the literature of this society, and commend its noble work to the generous and benevolent everywhere. We also will take the usual Conference collection, after presenting the claims and needs of the Society to our people.

The presence and timely words of Dr. J. W. Hamilton have given us an inspiration, and we will always hail his coming to our charges and annual meeting as a harbinger of good. We thoroughly enjoyed his magnificent address delivered before this Conference on Thursday night, and believe that it will be productive of lasting benefit to the Church throughout this Conference. God bless Dr. Hamilton in his great work.

BALDWIN ACADEMY.

We are compelled to record that the inadequate local support and the unfortunate surroundings of Baldwin Academy have prevented our work there from being the success that was earnestly sought for and expected. Unless the Freedmen's Aid and Southern Education Society shall come to its rescue by necessary maintenance and support, it will be continued only by great sacrifices and severe toil, without much fruit to reward those in charge.

THE SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY.

Recognizing that the needs of this Gulf Coast country which is so rapidly developing in material wealth and population demand on our part careful and wise consideration for the future.

Therefore, we re-affirm and approve the action of the Commission, suggested by Bishop Walden at our last Session, and empowered by this Conference to act, whereby the location of a School of the Methodist Episcopal Church, under the style and

title of "The Southern University of the Methodist Episcopal Church" at Jennings, La., was approved, to be under the auspices and patronage of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

We recommend that the Conference appoint the Presiding Elders to act in conjunction with the President and Financial Agent of the University in immediately taking such steps as seem best, looking toward the amicable settlement of the difficulties at Jennings, in the interest of the institution, and the perfecting of such plans and the creating such conditions as will place the institution under the fostering care of the Freedmen's Aid and Southern Education Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church; and that this Conference hereby request Dr. J. W. Hamilton, Corresponding Secretary of the Freedmen's Aid and Southern Education Society, to assist the Presiding Elders and the President in their work with his presence and advice.

We recommend the election of the following regents of the University:

John H. Roberts to fill vacancy in the class of the fourth year; H. F. Jaenke and J. A. McCorkle to fill vacancies in class of the third year; and General T. T. Taylor, E. F. Little, J. W. Lively, J. G. Campbell and F. M. Hanson, class of the fifth year.

We also recommend that the funds in the hands of the Conference Treasurer received from the public Education Collection be turned over to the Financial Agent of the school to be applied on the salary of the President.

We urge that a public collection be taken in each pastoral charge for the cause of Education, and that the sum of \$200 be apportioned among the several charges of the Conference, subject to the disposal of the Conference.

CHAS. K. WOODSON, Chairman.

Epworth League.

WHEREAS, The object of the Epworth League is to promote intelligence and loyal piety among the young members and friends of the Church, to aid them in the attainment of purity of heart and constant growth in grace and to train them in works of mercy and help.

WHEREAS, The League requires a solemn pledge from each and every active member to seek for and help others to attain the highest New Testament standard of experience and life, and abstain from all forms of worldly amusement forbidden by the Discipline of our Church, also to attend the means of Grace and take some active part. Therefore, resolved,

1. That we will, if possible, organize a League in all of our charges under the Model Constitution of the Society.

2. We will encourage the great effort of the Epworth League in its endeavor to break down schism, promote union in all of our young people's societies, organize for Christian improvement and work, and to bring about the glad day when our entire Church shall be united and every Methodist name in harmony with the Polity, Rules and Doctrines of our Church. We confirm the following nominations for Cabinet Officers and Executive Committee of the Gulf Mission Conference Epworth League:

President, J. G. Campbell.

Department of Correspondence, Chas. K. Woodson.

Executive Committee, C. A. King, Chas. K. Woodson, J. W. Lively, C. W. Campbell, Ira N. Pardee.

Resolved, That the Executive Committee arrange for a great State Convention at Lake Charles, to take place some time in the month of May, with such a program as will fully and exhaus-

tively cover all the work of the League, and that a training school be held each day of the Convention for the benefit of all who may become members of the Convention.

Resolved, That we extend an invitation to all the Leagues of State to be present by delegation and participate in the work of the Convention.

IRA. N. PARDEE, Chairman.

Church Extension.

We recommend for adoption the following resolutions:

1. The unparalleled success of our Church Extension Society during the period of more than thirty years calls for profound gratitude to God.

2. By fostering and strengthening this Society, we feel assured of help in caring for the millions who are surely coming to domicile in this Southern part of our great country.

3. We will, to the best of our ability, respond to the call of our Secretaries, and will endeavor to raise the full amount apportioned to our respective charges, and not only thereby help ourselves, but encourage a noble work in destitute communities, and offer the people opportunity to enter the courts of our Divine Master with praise.

4. We are thankful to our Heavenly Father for the continued health of our dear brother Kynelle who has so successfully managed, amid sunshine and shadow, the many details of his noble work, so as to call forth the widest praise from the wisest business men.

5. That the Presiding Elders of our Conference apportion with care the full amount asked for Church Extension to the several pastoral charges for collection, and see that an anniversary service be held in every charge, and a separate collection taken

for the cause, and that each Pastor secure the cards and advertising literature sent out by that Society, free, for the purpose of intelligently and systematically presenting this subject to our congregations; also we recommend the circulation of "Christianity in Earnest" and "Glad Tidings," published in the Church Extension office, for the benefit of all persons interested in our Church Extension work.

I. N. PARDEE, Chairman.

Report of the Committee on Temperance.

As a Conference, we are deeply impressed with the importance of concerted action in our efforts to continue a relentless warfare upon the crying sin of our fair land—Intemperance.

We are more than ever convinced that if we meet with success as an anti-saloon Church in the suppression of this giant evil, it must be through a league that will be organized on a basis free from all the embarrassments and criticisms of party or party politics.

We further believe that there never has been a period in the history of our state when state, county and town organizations for the suppression of the saloon could be as broadly organized as at the present time.

It is a fact beyond question that the time has come for the Gulf Mission Conference to inaugurate and mature a plan for a wise and determined effort, a pull altogether, in harmony with the provisions of our Discipline, not for regulation but suppression of the sale and manufacture of intoxicants, so long the crying sin of our fair land.

Resolved, That, as Methodist ministers, we will forward every proper effort that is put forth in favor of national prohibition.

Resolved, That we hail as an omen of good the growth of the Anti-Saloon League, instituted by Dr. Kynelle, of our Church Extension Society, and we join hands with him in his noble efforts as set forth in "Christianity in Earnest."

Resolved, That if a State Temperance Agent is put into the field, in harmony with our views as herein stated, we will render him all of the help possible in organizing State, County and Town Leagues, under the constitution proclaimed by Dr. Kynelle.

IRA N. PARDEE, Chairman.

Report of Committee on Sunday Schools.

We recognize the important fact that the pulpit and the consecrated press are important factors in the education of the masses in the fundamental principles of the Bible.

Resolved, That as members and pastors we will make all possible effort to place in the homes and Sunday schools of the Methodist Episcopal Church literature published by our Book Concern.

Resolved, Second, that we believe it to be the duty of every father and mother to become regular subscribers to some of our Church papers.

Resolved, Third, that we favor the use of our literature in our Sunday Schools, and raise our voice against all other coming into our Churches.

Resolved, Fourth, that our churches be supplied with hymn books from the Book Concern of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

Resolved, Fifth, that it is the sense of this Conference that the Sunday School Union of the Methodist Episcopal Church has done much to forward our work, and as the Board asks this Con-

ference to pay thirty-eight dollars during 1898 to maintain said Union, we pledge ourselves to raise this amount.

Resolved, Sixth, that we, as a Conference, feeling the great need of tract distribution, agree to raise for the Tract Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church five dollars, the amount asked for.

P. C. CHANEY.

Report of Committee on Sabbath Observance.

God's requirement is the same now that it was six thousand years ago; and man's needs are the same as they were when God instituted the Sabbath, and rested on the seventh day and blessed and sanctified the day. Man needs the rest that the Sabbath brings. The observance of the Sabbath is a special means appointed by our Creator for the cultivation of suitable dispositions and conditions of heart and mind, as well as a day of rest. God, in his sacred word, in plain language and with marked emphasis, from Genesis to Revelation, commands us to keep and use for sacred purposes the Sabbath day. In this God is not arbitrary, but has a regard for our good as certainly as he has a regard for his own glory. The Sabbath is God's day for man, and it is man's day for God.

How specific is the fourth commandment, "It is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God: in it thou, * * nor thy son, * * daughter, * * manservant, * * maidservant, * * thy cattle nor the stranger that is within thy gates." See the obligation of the head of every family, not only to honor the day himself, but to use all the means in his power to secure the proper observance of the Sabbath day by all those committed to his charge, and thus honor God and promote the happiness and welfare of all his house.

We, as ministers, hereby pledge ourselves to appeal frequently, earnestly, faithfully and lovingly to the conscience of every pro-

fessed, lover of the Lord, to be alive to even the appearance of Sabbath desecration, and that they remember that God has said, "He that hath my commandments and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me." Again, we, as watchmen that God has called, will exercise ourselves to know as far as possible the modes and evil of Sabbath desecration, and sound the alarm, that all may escape by turning from the evil.

We will also try to behold with delight the blessings that come to the individual, to the family and the community that "Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy."

P. A. DROWN.

Report of Committee on Bible Cause.

The Bible Society, undenominational in its work, desires the hearty support of all Christian people. Its needs should not be forgotten by our pastors, and a collection should come from every charge. Depositories should be established in each of all our charges, and we should see that none within our reach should be without a copy of God's word.

ABEL HOFFPAUIR.

Periodicals.

It is with pleasure that we note the continued prosperity of our great publishing houses and the splendid apportionments to our superannuated fund. Therefore,

Resolved, That we heartily co-operate with, and give our hearty support to, all our publishing interests. But for our mutual information and co-operation, we will regard that splendid paper, the Central Christian Advocate, published at St. Louis, as our Conference organ, and endeavor to put it in all our homes.

Yours in Jesus,

E. L. WELLS.

Conference Claimants.

We are more than ever convinced that the harvest is fully ripe for gathering a permanent fund for the necessitous cases of our Conference as they shall occur.

We therefore recommend the immediate incorporation of our Board of Stewards, who shall act as Trustees for the Conference, under the laws of the State of Louisiana.

We also most earnestly recommend that a day, viz., the second Sabbath in October, be set apart for collection for this purpose, and that each pastor shall work to that end, talking about it and planning wisely for it.

We recommend that subscriptions in real estate, bequests, cash and notes be taken, according to a plan that the Board of Stewards may devise, looking toward a permanent fund, the interest of which shall be used for our Conference Claimants as the Conference may direct.

We further recommend that the Presiding Elder or Elders see that the best men be appointed in each charge on necessitous cases—men who are in full sympathy with this important undertaking, who will co-operate with the pastor and Board of Stewards in carrying out the plan arranged for this purpose.

IRA N. PARDEE,
J. W. LIVELY.

Superintendent's Report.

To the Bishop and Members of the Gulf Mission Conference:

DEAR BRETHREN:—Another year, the first in our history as a Conference, has come and gone, with all its opportunities, possibilities, trials and victories.

The partial failure of crops, low price of cotton and yellow fever scare, together with the long quarantine, has greatly hindered the progress of our work in some directions. Churches and congregations which would have been housed, remain houseless. Ministers who would have been comfortably domiciled in parsonages have been compelled to pay rent out of meager salaries. Church debts, which would have been cancelled, to the relief of our societies as well as the Church Extension Board, remain unpaid, or at best only partially lifted.

The Divine Father has taken from us our beloved Brother Walter Zimmerman, a probationer of the first year, a man "Full of faith and the Holy Ghost," one of our most successful men. He passed away in holy triumph, praising God that he had heard of and experienced the gospel of entire sanctification.

Bro. J. H. Burger, another probationer of the first year, has left us and gone to Illinois to resume his former profession of teaching.

Bro. F. J. Browning, after some twenty years of itinerant life, discovered that he was a Baptist, went, as was his privilege, to the Baptist Church, and is now a minister of that denomination.

Yet, my brethren, through all these losses, sorrows and deprivations, God has been very merciful to us. Mercies have crowned our lives, and success has attended our labors. The year has been, all things considered, a great victory.

Bishop Walden one year ago arranged the work into seventeen circuits and stations, to which were appointed as many men

and a Superintendent. Shortly after Conference, new fields opened, demanding our work, and the Superintendent has organized, during the year, four new charges. We now have twenty-one charges, supplied by twenty men and the Superintendent. The minutes of 1897 show a membership, including probationers, of thirteen hundred and six. Our present membership, including probationers, is little if any less than seventeen hundred.

We had one year ago eight church buildings, valued at nine thousand two hundred dollars (\$9200). We now have twelve church buildings, valued at a little less than nineteen thousand dollars (\$19,000), a good advance.

In Sabbath schools and Sabbath work there has been commendable advancement.

We find many whitened fields, inviting us to harvest, which we cannot enter for lack of funds.

Bishop McCabe recently said: "Let us push our work in the South, both among the white and the colored people." This is what we are doing up to the mark of the means at our command.

Our work in this Conference is not confined to the people coming into this country from the north: half our membership is native-born, and several of our most efficient ministers were born and educated in the South-land. Holiness, "thank God," conquers prejudice, removes lines of separation and makes us one in heart.

It is not our purpose to come into "hurtful competition" with our brethren of any denomination, but rather to push our work in the spirit of the Master, as worthy sons of Wesley, who said, "The world is my parish."

Sons and daughters, born in our homes, and rapidly growing to manhood and womanhood, must be educated. "Methodism was born in a university." We want them in the church, and saved to the church, and knowing this cannot be without Metho-

dist schools of high grade. We are making heroic efforts which promise success, in the near future, to establish such a school in the beautiful city of Jennings. Whoever heard of such a school being founded without opposition and great cost in money and sacrifice! The struggle is upon us; but, in the spirit of the fathers, we propose to move straight to the goal, by Divine assistance.

Baldwin, on our eastern border, is a small charge, the seat of Baldwin Academy. We have but few members at this point and little prospect of growth.

Beaumont and Port Arthur have been supplied by A. C. Williamson. Port Arthur is the terminus of the Kansas City, Pittsburg and Gulf Railroad, a growing town of about eleven hundred people, and promises to be a deep water harbor of importance in the near future. We have a church membership of thirty-five at this point, a church subscription of \$1000 and a lot valued at \$500. The outlook is promising.

Crowley.—The parish seat of Acadia parish is a town of about twenty-five hundred people. A great rice center. We have a church building and a parsonage valued at three thousand dollars (\$3000). We have a church membership of nearly one hundred. C. H. Harris was appointed and served the charge six months. Prof. Chas. K. Woodson has been in charge the last half of the year. The church and parsonage debt of about six hundred dollars has been provided for through the efforts of Brother Woodson. The charge is in good condition.

Duson has two appointments, one east and one west of Crowley. The charge has been served by Abel Hoffpauir. *Duson*, or that part of the charge east of Crowley, should be placed with Ebenezer; and Midland, or the west point, should be placed with Gueydan and made a new charge.

Ebenezer lies south of Crowley. It has one church building and a parsonage. A small debt still remains on the property, due to the Church Extension Board. Brother P. C. Chaney, the

pastor, has done a good year's work. The charge has been scourged by drouth, and yet is in a growing condition.

French Mission, headquarters at Pine Grove, P. J. Robidoux, pastor, has two organized classes. Pine Grove has eighty-five members. The people are poor but are improving. Prairie Hayes has twenty-five members. We arranged to open a Sabbath School at this point at our last Quarterly Meeting. We have no church property at these points. We have two exhorters. The growth is slow but hopeful.

Jennings, the seat of the Southern University, is a fine growing town. A strong church, with good church building, out of debt. I. N. Pardee, the pastor, has done efficient work. The charge is growing.

Lake Charles was left to be supplied at our last Conference. I secured Rev. J. G. Campbell, who has done good service. A fine church, valued at five thousand dollars, has been erected. The people desire Bro. Campbell's return.

La Porte and Texas City supplied by G. W. L. Smith. At my first visit, the people asked that Bro. Smith's whole time be given to them and deep water. I secured Bro. Ashmore for part of the work, and thus met their want. A good work has been done. Bro. Smith resigned near the close of the year and I placed Bro. Ashmore in charge of the whole work.

Lake View is a two weeks' charge, time divided between Big Lake and Iowa. Father Wilkinson has done faithful, acceptable and efficient work, on small pay. The charge suffered with many others from short crops.

Marshall, as organized by Bishop Walden one year ago, embraced nearly all of Northeast Texas. J. W. Lively was appointed pastor. The charge has grown into three charges, viz: Atlanta, Hughes Springs and Marshall. Atlanta and Marshall have remained in charge of Bro. Lively. Hughes Springs was placed early in the year under the pastoral charge of Rev. Julian Wood-

son. Marshall has increased in membership from twenty to forty-five. Atlanta has been organized with a membership of forty. Church lots have been secured at this point. Hughes Springs has grown from nothing to a membership of one hundred and seven, and church property valued at one thousand dollars. All church interests and work have been carefully looked after on these charges.

Oberlin was reduced by placing China with Raymond at the last Conference. Oberlin and Kinder are the only organized points on this work. Thomas Wilson has supplied the work acceptably the past year. We have one church building valued at seven hundred dollars.

Pine Woods. Territorially, extensive; numerically and financially, very small. We have one organized class of twenty-seven members, but as many appointments as a man may please to make and fill. J. L. Wyche has acted as supply. The financial condition and the long quarantine prevented work we hoped to see accomplished in the way of organization. We have no property on this charge.

Raymond and Lakeside, supplied by J. F. Ross. Raymond and China northwest of Jennings and Lakeside on Lake Arthur are the appointments on this work. Good work has been done, especially at Raymond, where we have a nice church building with its five-acre lot, valued at twelve hundred dollars.

Shelbyville is in Shelby county, Texas, a charge organized at our last session. Walter Zimmerman, who came to us from the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, brought with him the nucleus of three Churches, and was appointed to the charge of his own making. Under his efficient management and earnest work many have been converted and brought into the Church. Two church buildings, valued at three thousand five hundred dollars, have been erected. The charge is the best organized and officered in the Conference. Brother Zimmerman closed his work in October

and went to his reward. Brother Matthews, a local preacher, has supplied the work the last months of the year.

Welsh.—J. H. Burger was appointed to this charge and remained six months, doing good work. Brother J. F. Ross has supplied the charge the last half of the year.

Woodville.—This charge is in Tyler and Polk counties, Texas. Brother F. J. Browning was appointed, and Brother Mann employed as assistant. This continued until Brother Browning withdrew from our Church and ministry. I then placed the charge in the hands of Brother Mann, who has done good work, gathering many souls into the church.

Mahon, south and east of Marshall, is a new charge organized last March. It has a membership between thirty-five and forty.

Provencal, on the Texas and Pacific Railway, in Louisiana west of Alexandria, is small but hopeful.

My relations to my brethren and their families the past year have continued as in the preceding years of my Superintendency, pleasant in every respect. You have borne with me uncomplainingly so far as I know, and the attachments have strengthened between us. I believe the interests of the Redeemer's Kingdom are safe in your hands.

Respectfully submitted,

CYRUS A. KING.

This Certifies

That on Feb. 6, 1898, at Crowley, La., I ordained to the office of Deacons Patrick H. Sanders and Charles E. Moch.

W. X. NINDE.

Resolutions of Respect.

TO THE PEOPLE OF CROWLEY.

In view of the fact that the people of Crowley have so kindly and hospitably opened their homes for our entertainment as a Conference, we hereby as a body publicly express our thanks and appreciation, and show our good will by praying God to continue to prosper this people and shower a multitude of blessings upon them and the beautiful, growing city of Crowley.

TO BISHOP W. X. NINDE.

WHEREAS, In the providence of God, our beloved Bishop W. X. Ninde has been permitted to visit us at this Annual Session and preside over us; and,

WHEREAS, We have been so highly favored by his Godly counsel and his wise supervision, we do most heartily as a Conference express to him our love and esteem for his presence, which has been a benediction, and for his tender and fatherly rule, and also for his Christian and gentlemanly conduct while with us; and most devoutly pray God, the great father of us all, to keep and continue to guide him in all his labors; and pray and petition for his speedy return to us, and will welcome him with open arms and hearts for his own and the work's sake.

TO CHAS. K. WOODSON.

We deem it proper and right, as a Conference, to publicly express our highest regard to our worthy Secretary, Rev. Chas. K. Woodson, who has so cheerfully kept the records of this body and who has served us so faithfully for five consecutive years; and we hereby tender to him our kindest regards and appreciation as a faithful officer and trusted servant of this Conference.

TO W. W. DUSON.

We desire to express in a public manner our great apprecia-

tion, and return our sincere thanks to Mr. W. W. Duson for his kindness in extending to this Conference the privilege of viewing in operation his magnificent rice pumping station just north of the city of Crowley. It was a rare treat and we assure him one which was thoroughly enjoyed by all who witnessed the beautiful columns of water shot up into the air by the tremendous force beneath, and then from the large open reservoir glide smoothly into the great canal to be spread over the hundreds of acres of rice fields.

J. W. LIVELY,
P. H. SANDERS.

Resolutions to the Hon. James A. Gary, Postmaster General.

HONORED SIR:

The Sunday railway train, by its ready and wide-extended inducement to travel, both for pleasure and business, is undoubtedly the most influential agency now undermining public reverence for the divinely appointed Sabbath.

The transportation of the mail, except in the vicinity of large cities, is the chief cause and *support* of the Sunday train.

The great facilities for daily intercommunication by rail, telegraph and telephone, leave no excuse for the Sunday mail as a necessity, a fact sustained by the diminished mail service and almost universal closing of postoffices in England and Canada.

State legislation cannot stop United States mail trains, therefore the responsibility for Sunday mail service, and largely for all Sunday travel, rests solely upon the postoffice department.

If the United States government, through *you* and your department, by the approval and direction of the President, would

set the example of reverence for the Lord's day by stopping the transmission of mails and closing all postoffices on Sunday, it would evoke a divine blessing upon itself and the whole country; would teach a sublime lesson to the world; would confer a great boon upon thousands of its own and other officials and employes, and would put such a stamp of condemnation upon all acts of public desecration of the Sabbath as would deter good citizens from their commission, and render all proper Sunday laws, state and municipal, easy of enforcement.

We, therefore, do most earnestly but respectfully petition you, and, through you, His Excellency the President, to forbid the transmission of any mails on Sunday, and order the closing of all postoffices throughout the United States on that day.

Conference Board of Examiners.

Resolved, That the Board of Examiners appointed by the Bishop, in accordance with the provisions of the Discipline, meet in Marshall, Texas, Wednesday morning before the Conference session, at 9 o'clock, for the purpose of examining the several Conference Classes, and that the Presiding Elder notify all persons who are to be examined to be present at that time, and that each candidate must pass 70 on the scale of 100 in order to obtain admission, advancement or recognition.

J. W. LIVELY,
IRA N. PARDEE.

A Token of Esteem and Affection.

One of the happy and pleasant occurrences of the Conference was the presentation of a fine driving horse and carriage to the Superintendent, Cyrus A. King, worth \$227.00. This handsome gift came in the following way and form:

"We, the undersigned friends, desiring to express in some substantial form our appreciation and esteem for the faithful services of the Superintendent of the Gulf Mission Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, Rev. Cyrus A. King, extending from the organization of the Mission to the present time, representing five years of unremitting toil and sacrifices on his part, and in recognition of his uniform kindness and brotherly affection so impartially bestowed upon us, our wives and children, have subscribed the amount opposite our respective names for the purchase of a horse, carriage, harness, whip, lap robes, blanket, fly net, curry comb, brush, oil, etc., to be presented by Bishop W. X. Ninde, at 12 m. Saturday, Feb. 5, 1898, on and in behalf of the members of the Conference and his numerous friends of Crowley, Jennings and Lake Charles."

Promptly on the adjournment of the morning session of the Conference Saturday in the presence of a large assemblage of friends just outside of the church, Bishop Ninde, in an appropriate and delightful speech, presented the beautiful horse and handsome carriage with their belongings to Cyrus A. King and his beloved wife, Mrs. Fannie A. King. It was an overwhelming surprise to both; but as soon as they could command voice, Brother King replied in a happy manner, thanking the friends for this generous

token of their confidence and esteem, and assured them that he was literally dumfounded with surprise; then Sister King followed in a loving, affectionate response with devout thanksgiving to God for all his mercies, craving that his blessings might continue upon the work of the coming year and upon all his servants. After singing "Blest be the Tie That Binds our Hearts in Christian Love," they were given seats in the new carriage and passed down the street to their place of entertainment while the friends dispersed, rejoicing in the privilege of doing good.

Secretary's Financial Report.

CROWLEY, LA., Feb. 5th, 1898.

Chas. K. Woodson in account with the Gulf Mission Conference.

	DR.	CR.
To subscriptions,	\$46.00	
To advertising,	7.50	
To balance due,	20.50	
By balance on last year's account,		\$ 7.50
By publishing minutes,		59.30
By postage and expressage,		4.25
By sundries and stationery,		2.95
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	\$74.00	\$74.00

Respectfully submitted,

CHAS. K. WOODSON, Secretary.



Missionary Appropriations.

Lake Charles District,	\$200 00
Beaumont and Taylor Bayou,	95 00
Ebenezer,	100 00
French Mission,	500 00
Gueydan and Midland,	50 00
Lake Charles,	100 00
Lake View,	75 00
La Porte,	75 00
Pine Woods,	50 00
Port Arthur,	50 00
Raymond and Oberlin,	75 00
Welsh and Fenton,	75 00
Woodville,	75 00
French Work (Bible Reader),	50 00
French Work (Superintendent),	50 00
Total,	<hr/> \$1620 00
Marshall District,	\$200 00
Hughes Springs,	100 00
Marshall,	100 00
Mahon,	50 00
Provencal,	50 00
Total,	<hr/> \$500 00
Grand total,	<hr/> \$2120 00

Ministerial Support.

The following apportionment of the Presiding Elder's claim and the Episcopal claim was made to each charge at a special meeting of the District Stewards on Monday afternoon, Feb. 7th, 1898, Presiding Elder Cyrus A. King in the chair, Chas. K. Woodson, Secretary:

Lake Charles District.

	PRESIDING ELDER'S CLAIM.	EPISCOPAL CLAIM.
Baldwin,	\$10 00	\$1 00
Beaumont, Taylor Bayou,	20 00	1 00
Crowley,	40 00	2 00
Ebenezer,	40 00	1 00
French Mission,	30 00	2 00
Gueydan and Midland,	30 00	2 00
Jennings,	75 00	3 00
Lake Charles,	60 00	2 00
Lake View,	30 00	1 00
La Porte,	30 00	1 00
Pine Woods,	10 00	1 00
Port Arthur,	30 00	1 00
Raymond and Oberlin,	40 00	2 00
Welsh and Fenton,	30 00	1 00
Woodville,	30 00	1 00
Total,	\$595 00	\$22 00

Marshall District.

Atlanta,	\$40 00	\$1 00
Hughes Springs,	25 00	1 00
Marshall,	25 00	1 00
Mahon,	10 00	1 00
Provencal,	10 00	1 00
Shelbyville,	40 00	2 00
Total,	\$150 00	\$7 00
Grand Total,	\$745 00	\$29 00

Treasurer's Report.

Baldwin,	\$52.00
Beaumont and Port Arthur,	5.00
Crowley,	85.00
Duson,	6.00
Ebenezer,	21.00
French Mission, Lafayette and Pine Grove,	41.00
Hughes Springs,	12.00
Jennings,	57.00
Lake Charles,	34.00
La Porte and Texas City,	2.00
Lake View,	10.00
Marshall,	22.00
Oberlin,	12.00
Raymond and Lakeside,	27.00
Shelbyville,	31.00
Welsh,	5.00
<hr/>	
Total,	\$422.00

In Memoriam.

WALTER ZIMMERMAN.

Walter Zimmerman was born in the state of South Carolina, Oct. 20, 1865. At 19 he entered the Vanderbilt University, remaining two years. In the fall of 1886 he was married to Miss Maggie Retty. In 1892 he came to Texas and engaged in teaching. In 1894 he was admitted into the East Texas Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, on trial. After two years

of faithful service, he was rejected by the Conference because of his uncompromising views on the question of holiness. Early in 1897 he sought connection with the Methodist Episcopal Church, and was ordained Deacon by Bishop J. M. Walden, and was received by the Gulf Mission Conference on trial at the session held in Jennings, La.; was appointed to the Shelbyville charge. This charge he served with great fidelity and earnestness until Oct. 21, 1897, when, in the midst of weeping friends and a loving family his eventful and useful life on earth ceased.

Walter Zimmerman was an unique character. His faith in God was wonderful and never disturbed. His boldness and openness was marked. He was without fear. He was a terrific force against all sin; a leader and champion of all that is good and noble. He was Wesleyan in doctrine and his uncompromising vindication of the doctrine and experience of entire sanctification, as a privilege of believers, led to his rejection by the East Texas Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, in 1896.

His death was a great victory. He came to the dark river with songs of rejoicing and shouts of glory. While his life was a living power, his death was a wonderful triumph for the truth of God. As a preacher he held forth a pure gospel, backed by a clean, pure life. As a pastor he carried all his people on his heart. In a few months he added over two hundred souls to the Shelbyville charge. Through his unwavering faith and untiring zeal he built a church edifice in Shelbyville which for beauty and utility is not excelled in the Conference. Underneath this building, just under its pulpit, the body of its builder quietly sleeps. Peace to his name!

The Gulf Mission Conference has lost an invaluable man; the pulpit has lost a bold and able defender; society has lost a jewel; his surviving wife and children a true husband and father.

J. W. LIVELY.

Benevolent Collections.

The following is the apportionment to each charge for benevolences for the ensuing Conference year:

CHARGES.	Missions,	Church Extension,	Education,	Sunday Schools,	Tracts,	Total.
<i>Lake Charles District:</i>						
Baldwin.....	\$10	\$ 6	\$20	\$ 1	\$ 1	\$38
Beaumont and Taylor Bayou.....	10	3	10	1	1	25
Crowley.....	25	12	20	2	1	60
Ebenezer.....	10	8	10	3	1	32
French Mission.....	20	7	10	2	1	40
Gueydan and Midland.....	10	6	10	3	1	30
Jennings.....	30	15	20	3	2	70
Lake Charles.....	25	12	20	3	2	62
La Porte.....	6	4	5	2	1	18
Pine Woods.....	5	2	5	1	1	14
Port Arthur.....	10	5	5	1	1	22
Raymond and Oberlin.....	20	8	15	2	1	46
Welsh and Fenton.....	10	5	10	1	1	27
Woodville.....	5	5	5	1	1	17
<i>Marshall District:</i>						
Atlanta.....	10	5	10	2	1	28
Hughes Springs.....	10	5	5	2	1	23
Marshall.....	10	5	5	2	1	23
Mahon.....	5	2	3	1	1	12
Provencal.....	5	2	3	1	1	12
Shelbyville.....	15	12	10	3	2	42
	251	129	201	37	23	641

REPORTS.

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CHARGES.	CHURCH MEMBERSHIP			BAPTISMS		SUNDAY SCHOOLS			CHURCH PROPERTY.							
	No. of Probationers.	No. Full Members.	No. Local Preachers.	No. Deaths.	No. Children Baptized.	No. Adults Baptized.	No. Schools.	No. Officers and Teachers.	No. Scholars.	No. Churches.	Probable value	No. Parsonages	Probable value	Pd bldg and impvg Ch, Parsgs	Pd old debt on Ch Property	Pres't Indebt- ed's Ch. Prop.
Atlanta.....	2	3					1	6	24							
Baldwin.....	1	41					3	14	110							
Beaumont and Port Arthur.....	6	58	1				1	8	50	1	2000	1	550	14		
Crowley.....	10	20	1		5		1			1	200					
Duson.....	22	145	4	2	33		1	8	75	1	1300	1	650	193		
Ebenezer.....	15	97		3	6											
Lafayette, Pine Grove.....	18	87	2	1	12	3	2	8	65	1	400			400		
Hughes Springs.....	4	147	1		10	46	2	27	130	1	3000			100		
Jennings.....		65		1		1	1	11	66	1	5000			3700		1300
Lake Charles.....	14	46	1	1	1		2	9	97							300
La Porte and Texas City.....	1	46	1		1			17	82	1	1000					
Lake View.....	10	35	1			5	2	12	120							
Mahon Mission.....	25	98	2	2	4	5	2	9	43	1	500					
Marshall.....		32														
Oberlin.....	8	20			19	6										
Pine Woods.....																
Provencal.....																
Raymond and Lakeside.....	8	68	1	1	2	10	2	18	68	1	1200			25	35	85
Shelbyville.....	29	246	5	1	20	12	4	22	300	2	3200			3200	50	250
Welsh.....		3					2	13	72	1	1200					275
Woodville.....	26	132	2				1	3	30							
Total.....	202	1456	24	12	113	89	27	185	1332	12	19,000	2	1650	7439	828	2210
Last year.....	104	932	13	4	46	32	22	146	1065	8	9200	2	1450	1336	30	1645
Gain.....	98	524	11	8	67	57	5	39	267	4	9800	0	200	4103	798	565

STATISTICS No. 2.

SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

CHARGES.	No. of Schools.	No. Officers and Teachers.	No. Scholars of all Grades.	Average Attendance	No. Members in Home Department	No. Officers and Tehs. Ch. Membs. or Probationers.	No. Scholars Attendants or Members in Home Dept. Ch. Membs. or Probats's	No. members Sunday School converted during year	Current Expenses
Atlanta.....	1	6	24	18			14		16
Baldwin.....	3	14	110	70		8			20
Beaumont and Port Arthur.....	1	8	50	38				20	26
Crowley.....									
Duson.....	1	8	75	45		8			20
Ebenezer.....									
French Mission: Lafayette and Pine Grove..	2	8	65	50		8	45	17	12
Hughes Springs.....	2	27	130	104		25	30	1	60
Jennings.....	1	11	66	46		8		1	58
Lake Charles.....	1	9	97	57		4	14	1	22
La Porte and Texas City.....	2	17	82	66		14			
Lake View.....									
Mahon.....	2	12	120	90		12			61
Marshall.....	2	9	43	28		9			16
Oberlin.....									
Pine Grove.....									
Provencal.....	2	18	68	56		16	38		40
Raymond and Lakeside.....	4	22	260	200	40	22	200	50	55
Shelbyville.....	2	13	72	60		9		7	30
Welsh.....	1	3	39	25			3		
Woodville.....									
Total.....	27	184	1292	953	40	179	244	109	436

CHARGES.		PASTORS.		PASTOR'S SUPPORT CLAIMS		SUPP'T PR. EL'D	SUPP'T BISH'S	CONF. CLAIMS		CURRENT EXPENSES
Atlanta.....	C.K. Woodson..									Sunday Schools
Baldwin.....	A.C. Williamson									Lesson Lv, Bks.
Beaumont, Port Arthur..	C.K. Woodson..	500	120	500	120	62				20
Crowley	Abel Hoffpauir.					83				26
Duson	P. C. Chaney....	300	50	350	155	50	2			25
Ebenezer.....	P. J. Robidoux..					205	2			12
Lafayette, Pine Grove..	J. Woodson....	135	70	205	134	47	1			20
Hughes Springs.....	Ira N. Pardee...	900		900	625	275	1			24
Jennings.....	J. G. Campbell..	525		525	525	525	3			95
Lake Charles.....	G. W. L. Smith..	300		300	129	171	2			70
La Porte and Texas City..	A. Wilkinson...									
Lake View	J. T. Kirkley...	50		50	40	10				
Mahon.....	J. W. Lively....	300		300	300	300	1			60
Marshall	Thos. Wilson....	120		120	80	40	1			16
Oberlin	J. L. Wyche....									
Pine Woods.....	Provencal.....									
Raymond and Lakeside..	S. H. Matthews...	400		400	350	50	1			40
Shelbyville	J. F. Ross	375		375	210	165				55
Welsh.....	W. C. Mann ...	200		200	102	98				20
Woodville.....	Total 1898....	4104	240	4335	3202	194	18			274
	Last year...	2942	106	3048	2450	106	19			263
	Gain.....	1162	134	1287	752	88	4			103
							6			11

STATISTICS No. 4.

42

REPORTS.

CHARGES.	MISSIONS		BENEVOLENT COLLECTIONS.															
	ED'N		Church.	Sun. School.	Bd. Ch. Exten.	Sun. Sch. Union	Tract Society.	F. A. & S. A. Soc.	Pub. Ed. Coll.	Child's Fund.	Am. Bible Soc.	W. F. M. Soc.	W. H. M. Soc.	Other Benev. Collections	Conference Expenses.	Conference Claimants.	Episcopal Fund	Total.
Atlanta.....	10	3	10	5	5	1	1	134									1	52
Baldwin.....	3	2	3	2	2												7	5
Beaumont and Port Arthur.....	21	5	26	25	1	1			20		5						1	85
Crowley.....	5		5														1	6
Duson.....	10		10	7	1	1											2	21
Ebenezer.....	20		20	10	1	1			7								2	41
French Mission: Lafayette and Pine Grove.....	5		5	3	1	1			2								3	12
Hughes Springs.....	20	5	25	15	1	1				2	10			7			2	57
Jennings.....	11	2	13	5					5	2							2	34
Lake Charles.....	2		2														1	2
La Porte and Texas City.....	1	5	6	3													1	10
Lake View.....	10		10	6					5								1	22
Mahon.....	2	2	4	5					2								1	12
Marshall.....																		
Oberlin.....	10		10	8													1	27
Pine Woods.....	12		12	6	1	1			10								1	31
Provencal.....	2		2	2					1									5
Raymond and Lakeside.....																		
Shelbyville.....																		
Welsh.....																		
Woodville.....																		
Total.....	141	19	163	102		7	7	34	57	7	15			7			23	442
Last Year.....	98	38	130	100		5	4	106	13	13				18			12	401
Gain or Loss.....	43	19	33	2		2	3	34	49	6	2			11			11	241